



HR1083

LRB099 21032 GRL 46094 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Henry
4 English; and

5 WHEREAS, Henry English was a Chicago native who grew up on
6 the city's Near West Side, blocks from Farragut Career Academy;
7 after a stint in the United States Marine Corps, he returned to
8 Chicago and became an activist; while studying and serving in
9 student government at what was then called Crane Junior
10 College, he rallied his classmates to the cause of changing the
11 school's name to Malcolm X College; and

12 WHEREAS, Henry English was an organizer and advocate for
13 Chicago's most under-served neighborhoods for more than 40
14 years; in 1983, he founded the Black United Fund of Illinois,
15 which raises charitable donations to provide grants and
16 expertise to small not-for-profit groups and programs for job
17 training; as a Black Panther leader who recruited a young Bobby
18 Rush in the 1960s, he went on to invest in the economic
19 development of African American communities; and

20 WHEREAS, After graduating from Cornell University, Henry
21 English briefly worked as a healthcare administrator before
22 founding the Black United Fund of Illinois; his commitment to

1 Chicago's African American neighborhoods led him to champion
2 such initiatives as voter registration, leading to a lifetime
3 of supporting safe, healthy, and resilient children, families,
4 and communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Henry English is survived by his wife, Denise; his
6 sons, Nkrumah and Jummane; and his daughters, Kenya and
7 Kamillah; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we, along with his family and friends, mourn the passing of
11 Henry English; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Henry English as an expression of
14 our sympathy.